



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation
Service

Conservation Security Program Rhode Island 2005

60 Quaker Lane, Suite 46, Warwick, Rhode Island 02886 www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov



(L to R) Gil & Sandie Barden,
Bernie Smith, and Tony Donatelli
CSP 2005 recipients.



“Doing The Right Thing” Has Its Rewards: Barden Orchards Recognized For Good Stewardship

The USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service recognized Barden Orchards as the state’s first recipient under the new Conservation Security Program (CSP). CSP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to promote the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life, on Tribal and private working lands.

The Bardens Follow Their Dream!

Gilbert (Gil) and Sandie Barden have been farming the 80-acre Barden Orchards since 1989, when Gil’s grandfather leased the farm to them. The grandfather had been farming the land since 1930. The farm is situated in the towns of Scituate and Glocester. In 1999, the Bardens purchased the farm, and just recently left their jobs at the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. It was a big risk, but a dream of working the land that they both envisioned. Now six years and three children later, they are environmentally “doing the right thing,” and are being rewarded through the Conservation Security Program.

The Bardens have installed practices such as riparian buffers, nutrient and pest management, drip irrigation systems, and a well.

The Bardens’ CSP reward is due to the many enhancements they did that went over and above minimum soil and water quality standards.

The enhancements include increasing the soil condition index, reducing offsite impacts of pesticides by using hooded sprayers and an herbaceous buffer, using integrated pest management as part of crop rotations, improving water management, using nutrient testing for fertilizer application, and improving habitat management. They also have several projects planned, including constructing a post and beam barn for use as a retail market to sell their products.

The Bardens presently run a pick-your-own operation for apples, peaches, nectarines and pumpkins. They also sell sweet corn at a local farmers market and at their roadside stand. Their vision for the future is to continue to farm and expand with value added items to sell in the new barn, agri-tourism ventures such as giving educational farm tours, and putting in a petting zoo.

“There are two things that interest me: of people to each other, and the relationship of people to the land.”

-Aldo Leopold

Rhode Island CSP Quick Facts for 2005:

Watersheds: 2

Scituate Reservoir
Pocasset

Watershed Acreage:

73,425

Estimated Number of Farms & Ranches: 100

Cropland: 1,525 acres

Grazing Land: 1,316 acres

CSP Participation:

Sought info on CSP: 27
Attended workshops: 35
Applied: 4
Enrolled: 3

Tier Distribution: Tier III

Typical Enhancements:

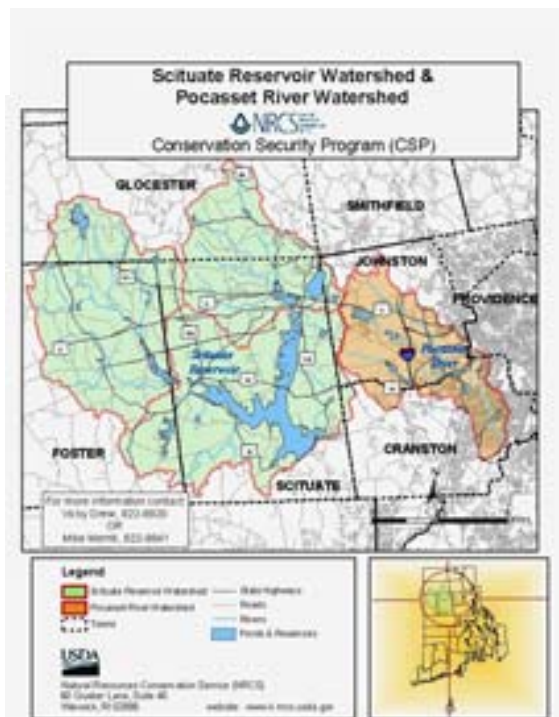
- Riparian Buffers
- Integrated Pest Management
- Habitat Management
- Increased Soil & Plant Testing
- Decreased Energy Uses

For more information about CSP and other NRCS conservation programs, log-on to:
www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov/programs

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Rhode Island 2005 CSP Highlights

Rhode Island 2005 CSP Watersheds



Watershed	Total CSP Applications Approved	Tier 1	Tier II	Tier III
Scituate Reservoir	3	0	0	3
Pocasset	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Contracts	3	0	0	3
TOTAL 05 Payments	\$13,023			\$13,023

Information About The Watersheds

The total estimated area in the watersheds is 73,435 acres. These watersheds are located in the western portion of Providence County. The land uses in the Scituate Reservoir watershed consist of rural residential development and limited small commercial development, forestland, orchards, nurseries, small vegetable farms, and small livestock operations with pasture and hayland. The Scituate watershed area is important for water quality as it drains to the Scituate Reservoir, which is a 4,500-acre reservoir that supplies drinking water to approximately 60% of the state's population. The Pocasset Watershed is located in a more heavily developed area, yet small farms and nurseries persist in the watershed. The state landfill is located in the Pocasset Watershed as well. There are approximately 100 small farms covering about 3,000 acres in the watersheds. The average size farm is about 50 acres with a large range in size that varies from 1 acre to 300 acres.